

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:JU

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE:

TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT CEILING ISSUE

1. SOME WEEKS AGO, AFTER VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, CONCLUSION WAS REACHED THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO ATTEMPT TO RAISE ISSUE OF 25 PER CENT ASSESSMENT CEILING AT SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING FACTORS WERE ESPECIALLY PERSUASIVE:

A) EXBD'S DECISION THAT SPECIAL GC SHOULD ADDRESS SINGLE ITEM (MEASURES TO REMEDY UNESCO DEFICIT) WOULD PLACE US AT SERIOUS DISADVANTAGE IN ATTEMPTING TO INTRODUCE ADDITIONAL ITEM, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT WOULD NOT BE POPULAR;

B) UNESCO RULES REQUIRE TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AND
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PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AND

TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO INSCRIBE ADDITIONAL ITEM AFTER
AGENDA S ADOPTION, MAKING IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY
THAT A U.S. PROPOSAL TO PLACE 25 PER CENT CEILING
ITEM ON AGENDA WOULD BE ACCEPTED;

C) FOCUS OF SPECIAL GC WILL BE ON EFFORTS TO MEET
UNESCO'S LARGE DEFICIT, FOR WHICH SOME MEMBERS WILL
WANT TO BLAME U.S., BECAUSE OF DOLLAR DEVALUATION,

AND WHICH WILL BE MET IN PART THROUGH PROGRAM CUTS
THAT ARE GENERALLY UNPOPULAR AND PARTICULARLY SO
WITH LDC'S. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT ONLY WOULD
THERE BE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF GC TAKING POSITIVE
ACTION ON 25 PER CENT CEILING, U. S. EFFORT COULD
EASILY EVOKE STRONGLY NEGATIVE REACTION THAT WOULD
JEOPARDIZE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM SAVINGS
(ABOUT \$4.6 MILLION WORTH), FOR WHICH US DEL HAS
WORKED VERY HARD AND WHICH DG WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH
TO ELIMINATE.

2. ABOVE CASE AGAINST RAISING ISSUE AT SPECIAL GC
APPEARS TO US TO BE VERY STRONG AND HAS, IF ANYTHING,
BEEN REINFORCED BY EXBD'S RECENT DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION
RE DEFICIT ITEM.

3. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING PERMREP'S VIEWS
ASAP AND REPORT OF ANY COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER THAT OTHER
EXBD MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE MADE DURING RECENT CORRIDOR
DISCUSSIONS OF DEFICIT OR RELATED ITEMS. KISSINGER

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